

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 2 and 12; cancel Claim 13, without prejudice; and add new Claim 15 as indicated below. The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium, comprising:
an underlayer laminated on a substrate and including a Cr-based non-magnetic material; and
a magnetic layer consisting of a CoCr-based alloy including Cr in the concentration of less than 5at% ~~or less~~.

3 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said underlayer has a thickness of greater than approximately 2nm.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium comprising the steps of:

laminating an underlayer above a substrate, said underlayer consisting of a Cr-based non-magnetic material; ~~and~~

laminating, above the underlayer, a magnetic layer consisting of an alloy of Co and a non-magnetic material, where said non-magnetic material of said magnetic layer consists of a material other than Cr and includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of W and Pt; and

post-annealing, after said magnetic layer and said underlayer have been laminated, to diffuse Cr from said underlayer into said magnetic layer such that Cr is present only at the crystal grain boundaries of said alloy.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a magnetic recording medium according to claim 12, wherein said magnetic layer is laminated with the sputtering method under the condition of the bias voltage being set to 0 V.

15. (New) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein Cr is present only at the crystal grain boundaries of said CoCr-based alloy.